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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,

HELD ON THE 8TH OF MAY, 1841.

THE RIGHT HON. C. W. WILLIAMS WYNN, M.P.,

PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

WAS READ AS FOLLOWS:—

BEFORE entering on the ordinary topics of the Annual Report, the Council have the great satisfaction of announcing that His Royal Highness, PRINCE ALBERT, has been graciously pleased to become one of the Vice-Patrons, and also a Contributing Member of the Royal Asiatic Society; and further, that His Royal Highness has commanded that his name should be set down as a Subscriber to the Oriental Translation Fund.

The honour thus conferred on the Society will not fail to be duly appreciated; and when it is recollected that the Society has for its Patron HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, the August Consort of His Royal Highness, and likewise that one of the most learned and distinguished Oriental scholars in Europe, Professor Lassen, of Bonn, a Foreign Member of the Society, at one time enjoyed the privilege of having His Royal Highness for his pupil, the Council cannot but feel a lively hope that the pursuits in which the Society are engaged, will meet with especial regard and encouragement at the hands of His Royal Highness, PRINCE ALBERT.

The Society have to lament the decease of thirteen of their Members since the last Anniversary. They are as follows:—

Resident and Non-Resident.

James Cropper, Esq.

Colonel John Cragie.

John Forbes, Esq.

General Benjamin Forbes Gordon.

General William Hull, C.B.

Sir J. W. Lubbock, Bart., F.R.S.
Samuel H. Lewin, Esq.
Colonel E. T. Michell, C.B.
Charles E. Pigou, Esq.
Colonel Thomas Shaw,
John Thornhill, Esq.
General Sir Henry Worsley, G.C.B.

Corresponding.

General Thomas Gordon.

There is no name in the foregoing list which so strongly claims the tribute of a grateful notice as that of Sir Henry Worsley. The military career of that distinguished officer was one of unceasing devotion to the public service from the early age of thirteen, until repeated attacks of illness, the consequence of intense professional labours, during many years, in the field, and in the onerous and responsible posts of Adjutant-General and Military Secretary to Government, compelled him unwillingly to forego the achievement of further honours, or the rendering of additional service to his country; and he returned to his native land, honoured by the universal respect of the army, and possessing, in a more than ordinary degree, the esteem and confidence of the Indian Government.

But though compelled to relinquish his personal exertions in the country which had witnessed his long and arduous toils, he continued to cherish the strongest feelings of attachment to India, and of interest in all that concerns her welfare. As a Member of the Society he frequently addressed valuable communications to the Council on points which had suggested themselves to his active mind; and he was ready at all times to contribute to the furtherance of any object which it was proposed to effect by co-operation and subscription.

But not content with these more general means of aiding the views of this Society, he made them the objects of that munificent liberality which was so distinguished a trait in his character, and which prompted him to present most liberal donations to public institutions of great and enlarged utility. A donation of 100*l.* was made by him in 1836; and the splendid gift of 1000*l.* succeeded in 1837, destined to aid the general purposes of this Society, and also to embrace the contemplated operations of the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, about that time established. It was by this noble and opportune assistance that the efficiency and activity of that section of the Society were promoted and secured, and the finances of the Institution relieved from considerable pressure.

It cannot fail to be a source of gratification to the Society, that it was enabled, during the life-time of Sir Henry Worsley, to adorn its room with a bust of that munificent and public-spirited man, as a fit companion to that of their illustrious first Director, Mr. Colebrooke, to whose enlarged mind, and wisely devised plans, the Royal Asiatic Society owes its foundation and existence.

The Council regret to observe, that the number of retirements* in the past year amounted to eight; and three names have been removed from the list, under the provisions of Rule liii; making a total of eleven, which added to the deaths, the whole loss sustained in the twelvemonth amounts to twenty-four,—a larger number in one year than has occurred since 1827, when the decrease was twenty-nine.

The Contributing Members elected in the year were seven, with one Corresponding Member, which number, being deducted from the before-mentioned total, leaves the actual loss sustained by the Society, sixteen.

Philip Barnes, Esq.

James Ferguson, Esq.

Sir Charles Malcolm.

A. W. Ravenscroft, Esq.

George Smith, Esq.

G. F. Travers, Esq.

General F. W. Wilson, C.B.

Rev. D. J. Gogerly. (*Corresponding.*)

To such fluctuations all public bodies are alike subjected by circumstances beyond their control; and the Council, adverting to the value of the services which the Society is capable of rendering to the best interests of India, entertain a confident hope of a more extended support in the ensuing year. The pursuits in which the Society is engaged are deeply interesting, not only to that portion of our fellow-countrymen, whose lives have been passed in the various functions of the public service in India, but to every one who is conscious of the value and importance of our Eastern possessions, and of the power with which this nation is entrusted for the good of its millions of inhabitants; and to every one who has friends or relations taking a share in public duties amidst the scenes of the Society's researches.

Adverting to the causes assigned by several of those gentlemen who have withdrawn from the Society, the Council would beg leave to remind the Members that it is not by the ability to attend the monthly meetings, or even to contribute to its literary productions, that they should measure the value of their continuance in the general body of the Society, the resources of which are chiefly dependent on the number of its resident Members. The necessity of economy has often cramped the exertions of the Society, which ought to be enabled, by liberal subscriptions, as well as by large donations, to offer for the use of all who take an interest in India, and its prosperity, a more extensive library, a larger museum, and more spacious apartments to contain and exhibit them. But the Society's library is even now of considerable extent, and possesses much that is curious and valuable, and not elsewhere to be found; and in its museum, though the confined space in which it is deposited does not allow of justice being done to the exhibition of its contents, it has a large variety of interesting and valu-

* *Retirements.*

Thomas Alcock, Esq.

General Boardman.

John Millar, Esq.

Major William Pace.

John Richards, Esq.

Samuel Skinner, Esq.

Colonel Strover.

Robert Wallace, Esq.

able objects, illustrative of the science and art of India, the customs of its people, and its history, natural and civil. These collections are accessible to its Members, and to those friends whom they may introduce. Many years have elapsed since the existing catalogues were first prepared, during which the extent of the collections has greatly enlarged, and the Council are taking measures for the preparation of new catalogues, which they hope at an early period to present to their members.

The Council, strongly impressed with the belief that many persons would join the Society who are at present unaware of its operations, and of the advantages which it presents, would suggest to their Members the importance of using their individual exertions to make its objects and existence more widely known; and they trust, that, with such aid, the number of Contributing Members may be largely increased.

It will be gratifying to the Meeting to learn from the statement which will be submitted by the Auditors, that although the expenditure of the year included an arrear due to the printer for work done in 1839, a considerable balance remained in hand at the close of 1840. This result, however, is produced by the rigid system of economy which has been adopted in restricting the expenditure within limits scarcely compatible with the fair prosecution of the objects for which the Society is embodied. One number only of the Journal has been printed within the twelvemonth; but the Council have pleasure in stating, that the materials for another number are collected, and its printing has actually commenced.

Adverting to the circumstances which have been stated, the Council have still to deplore the failure of their endeavours to obtain apartments in some of the public buildings, or to be otherwise relieved from the heavy charge incurred on account of this house, averaging little short of 300*l.* a year.

The following statement will show the receipts *from the payments of Members*, including compositions, in the last eleven years:—

	£.		£.
1830 . . .	887	<i>Brought forward</i>	5227
1831 . . .	858	1836 . . .	1048
1832 . . .	903	1837 . . .	917
1833 . . .	986	1838 . . .	892
1834 . . .	794	1839 . . .	820
1835 . . .	799	1840 . . .	806
	<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Carried forward</i>	£5227		£9710

Giving an Average of £880 per annum.

From the other sources of income, including the annual donation of the East India Company, an addition of about 200*l.* is derived, giving a total average of 1080*l.*, scarcely equal to the present economical disbursements.

The Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, established in 1836, have published from time to time, in their separate Proceedings, the results of

their interesting investigations, and the various and valuable information which they had collected. The inquiries for the prosecution of which they were embodied as a distinct Committee, were so extensive and important, and the advantages to the arts and commerce of this country pointed out in their early proceedings as necessarily consequent on a better acquaintance with the products of the East, became soon so evident, that societies and chambers of commerce, and other associations, were formed by the zeal of commercial adventure to prosecute the same objects, in the spirit of mercantile interest and speculation.

At the end of last session, the East India Company, sensible of the importance of prosecuting the interesting objects for the attainment of which the Committee had been instituted, formed a department under themselves to aid and more effectually work out the same benefits; and, justly appreciating the eminent qualifications of Dr. ROYLE for such a duty, they selected that gentleman to conduct its details, under their support and influence. This new occupation of the time and talents of Dr. Royle, from which the Committee had derived previously the greatest advantage, and on which the success of their exertions was greatly dependent, would have been matter of deep regret if the Council did not feel that the objects which they had so much at heart in the appointment of the Committee, will be worked out with far greater advantage through the means which that gentleman will now have at his disposal, and the influence by which he will be supported. On consideration of these circumstances, and adverting also to the insufficient funds raised to maintain a separate establishment for the Committee of Commerce and Agriculture, it appeared indispensable that its functions should terminate at the end of the last year.

It is not, however, intended to abandon this interesting branch of investigation, but henceforward to carry it on by a Committee of the Council. The specimens already collected, and such as may in future be obtained, will be here exhibited to all who may desire to have access to them through this Society. A Correspondence will be kept up with the European and Native Associations and Kindred Institutions, now turning their attention to similar objects in Great Britain and India; and the Council trust that they shall be in friendly and active communication with the late Secretary of the Agricultural Committee in his new and important office; and they will look for occasional aid also from the experienced talents, intelligence, and zeal of their late coadjutor, Mr. Solly, whose chemical analyses of the specimens submitted to him, while attached to the late Committee, were so ably and clearly drawn up. Thus making the best use in their power of all such means and appliances as may be within their reach, the Council hope still to co-operate, not inefficiently, in furthering the objects to which a new impetus had undoubtedly been imparted by the establishment and operations of the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Society's Library has received several valuable accessions during the past year, as well from those Societies which contribute their transactions

in the various fields of literature and science in which they are employed, both at home and abroad, as from learned authors who have presented their works, and individuals who have added valuable donations to enrich our shelves. But there is one splendid and munificent gift which calls for a special notice in this Report: it is that of a large and most valuable collection of Chinese works, accumulated with diligent research and at considerable expense, by the late THOMAS MANNING, Esq., who for many years zealously devoted himself to the investigation of that curious language in the country where it can be most successfully studied.

At a very early period of his life, while a student of the University of Cambridge, Mr. Manning entertained an idea that in the structure of the Chinese language many analogies might be traced in elucidation of his own views respecting the Greek prepositions and particles. An ardent investigator of the philosophy of the human mind, he further conceived an earnest wish to study the moral and social characteristics of that remarkable people, and to trace the causes of the peculiar phenomena which they present; with these views, having resolved to visit China, he repaired to Paris at the Peace of Amiens, to prepare himself by previous study of several works, which were then more readily accessible at that capital than in any other place, to enter with advantage on his projected researches. Returning to England, he shortly afterwards proceeded to Canton, where he resided engaged in his favourite pursuits, under the patronage of the East India Company. Finding the impossibility, however, of carrying out his ulterior project of studying the habits and character of the people, he endeavoured to penetrate into the provinces of the empire through Rangpore and Thibet; but, foiled in these endeavours, he returned to Canton, where, on the arrival of the British Embassy, he was appointed by Lord Amherst to accompany His Lordship to Peking, as one of his interpreters.

It was under such favourable circumstances that Mr. Manning's Chinese Library was formed. His representatives, aware of the value of such a collection, and anxious that it should be rendered most extensively available to the scholars and students of that language, resolved on presenting it to the Royal Asiatic Society; who have expressed to the liberal donors the high value they place on the gift, and have assigned to it a separate space in the Chinese Library, under the designation of "The Manning Collection." The council have further the satisfaction to announce, that SAMUEL BALL, Esq., a Member of the Council, and an excellent Chinese scholar, has kindly undertaken, and is now engaged in preparing, a Catalogue of the works composing this valuable Collection.

The Secretary to the Committee of the Oriental Translation Fund has furnished the Council with the following notice of the proceedings of that Committee since the last anniversary of the Society:—

The first volumes of two important translations have been printed by the Committee since the last Annual Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society; namely, the "History of the Mohammedan Dynasties in Spain; from the

text of Al-Makkari; translated from the Arabic by Don Pascual de Gayangos:" and "Masudi's Meadows of Gold and Mines of Gems," also from the Arabic, by Dr. A. SPRENGER. In the preface to the latter work, the translator says:—"Masudi has a just claim to be called the Herodotus of the Arabs: combining, like Herodotus, ethnography and geography with history, and learning with experience and oral information, he distinguishes between the various nations of the East, and gives us a picture of their innate character;" that he has "the merit of treating the tenets of all sects with equal attention: and ancient traditions, which had existed in the East for thousands of years, seem to have melted, as it were, in his mind, into one original idea." * * * "In this respect, even his history of the Creation is of interest; for he unites the traditions respecting cosmogony which were kept up in the East, together with the documents of Moses and Sanchoniathon, with the Scriptural accounts." From these causes, and from the intimate acquaintance which Masudi had with the Arabic, Persian, Coptic, and Greek literature of his time (that of the tenth century), his work has deservedly gained a very high reputation; and the present translation must aid considerably in extending a knowledge of Eastern history. The Author's style in the original is in general easy; his narratives are given in a pleasing manner; and the whole work evinces the sound sense and enlarged philosophical views of the writer.

SEÑOR DE GAYANGOS's translation of Al-Makkari's Mahommedan Dynasties in Spain fills up an important hiatus in historical literature. A good history of the settlements of the Arabs and Moors in the South of Europe has long been wanted, and will now be supplied. The labours of CASIRI and CONDE, though valuable in this respect, were not sufficient to allay the curiosity felt throughout the learned world for the history of a people whose manners, arts, and literature were almost unknown; but whose influence upon the civilization of Europe is now generally acknowledged. The work of Al-Makkari, though compiled in the East, and at a time when Spain was on the point of casting away from her shores the relics of her conquerors, is nevertheless based upon authentic records, or borrowed from preceding histories not to be found in our libraries. It contains a full account of the Conquest of Spain by the Arabs, and of their wars with the Christians; it gives ample details of their manners, trade, agriculture, commerce, and civil and religious institutions; as well as on the sciences cultivated by them; in short, it affords us a complete history of Moorish Spain from the conquest of that country by Tárik, in the year 711, to the taking of Grenada, in 1492.

The volume now presented to the public through the medium of the fund extends to nearly seven hundred pages in quarto; and is enriched with numerous critical and explanatory notes by the learned translator, derived principally from original sources, by which the deficiencies common to most Arabic authors have been compensated, and the interest and value of the translation greatly enhanced.

Of the works in the course of printing under the auspices of the fund, Baron Mac Guckin de Slane's English translation of Ibn Khallikan's *Lives of Illustrious Men of Islam* approaches nearest to completion; and a volume will be published in the course of a few weeks. The learned translator has already edited the Arabic text of Ibn Khallikan, with singular accuracy and judgment.

The translation of the *Dabistan*, which was commenced by the late Professor Shea, of the East India College, is being continued by Captain A. Troyer, of Paris, a Member of the Royal Asiatic Society. The printing of the work is begun; and before the close of another year the Committee hope to be enabled to offer to their supporters this truly curious and interesting account of ancient religious creeds and sects.

A translation of the *Jámi al Tuárikh*, by W. H. Morley, Esq., a Member of the Committee, is in progress. This celebrated Persian work of Rashid al Din gives a copious account of the origin of the Turks; the reigns of Changiz Khán and his descendants, to the author's own time; an abridged History of the Prophets, Mohammed and the Khalifahs to the year of the Hegira, 700; a Chronicle of the Jews and Christian Princes, and also an interesting Geographical and Historical Description of the various Countries of the Earth. The translation will comprise the whole work; as fortunately the long lost portions have been discovered by remarkable coincidences, since 1838, in three separate collections of Oriental MSS., in London, by Professor Falconer, Mr. Morley, and Professor Duncan Forbes; its publication will be hailed with gratification by every lover of Oriental literature; and must redound to the reputation of the translator, and even to the credit of the country itself.

The third volume of Professor Flügel's edition and Latin translation of the extensive Bibliographical and Biographical Dictionary in Arabic of Haji Khalfa is nearly completed. The publication of this work will forward the cause of Oriental literature in a great degree, as it will readily afford a guide to the scholar in pointing out to him those works, the study of which is most desirable and useful; and it will assist those who have access to the libraries of the East in judging of the respective merits of their contents. It is probable that no work of so comprehensive a character as that of Haji Khalfa has ever been attempted in Europe. The "*Bibliotheca*" of Fabricius somewhat resembles it; but that is limited to notices of books, whereas this contains Biographical notices also.

The *Li-ki*, long announced for translation, from the Chinese, by Professor Julien, is now in the press. This very extensive work is attributed to Confucius; and is one of the most difficult in the Chinese language. It is the ancient code of Chinese moral and ceremonial law; and forms the basis of the manners and habits of that remarkable people. The Committee trust, judging from the progress already made by the industrious translator, to be able to present their subscribers with a volume of the work in the present year.

A work of considerable interest, both to the classical and Oriental scholar, has been recently accepted by the Committee, and is proceeding towards completion. It is the "Divine Manifestation" of the ecclesiastical historian Eusebius. This work has been long lost, and had, it was thought, perished, but has been discovered in a Syriac version. It will be translated, and the original text edited by the Rev. Professor Lee.

The printing of Makrizi's History of Egypt, translated by M. Quatremère, is being continued. Few works will be more pleasing to the European reader, or more interesting to the Arabic scholar than this; and the notes with which the translation is edited will add greatly to its value.

Colonel Miles has completed the translation, from the Persian, of the Nishan-i-Haideri, a History of the Mysore during the reigns of Hyder Ali and his son Tipú. The MS. which Colonel Miles chiefly employs in his translation was confided by Her Most Gracious Majesty to the Committee for that purpose.

The Kitab-al-Yamini of Al-Utbi has been undertaken for translation by the Rev. James Reynolds, the Secretary to the Committee, and is slowly proceeding, its progress being chiefly retarded by its difficulty. It may be classed, in this respect, with the Timúr of Arabshah, or the Makámát of Hariri. The labours of the translator will, however, be well rewarded if he be enabled to bring them to a successful issue; and it is only surprising that a work, always regarded as purely classical in its style, and relating to the popular Mohammedan hero, Mahmúd of Ghazni, should not have been translated before.

The extensive nature of the Committee's undertakings will be apparent from the preceding brief review of its operations. The works already printed at the expense of the Fund amount to fifty-six; and the Committee, while gratefully acknowledging the munificent support they have received, cannot but express their regret that the list of their Subscribers should not comprise a number more adequate to the claims upon their patronage and aid. How much of the increased interest now prevailing in regard to Oriental letters may be attributed to the establishment of the Royal Asiatic Society, and its offshoot, the Oriental Translation Committee, it is not here the place to speculate upon. But the esteem with which the Committee is regarded by foreign scholars, and the conviction that our own Orientalists can, at present, only rely on the aid of the Fund for the means of advantageously laying the results of their labours before the public, induces the Committee to believe that they shall be enabled long to foster and encourage pursuits so especially gratifying to those who follow them, and which cannot fail ultimately to exert a beneficial influence over various branches of literature.

As connected closely with the objects of this Society, the Council deem it their duty to bring to the knowledge of the Members the recent institution of a Society for a purpose of the most essential importance to the

successful cultivation of Oriental literature, the publication of the original texts of the most esteemed Oriental works. Although the press has been for some time actively employed in the printing of Oriental books, the number of standard works so printed bears but a very small proportion to those which still exist in manuscript, and which are consequently to be consulted only with difficulty, with much loss of time, and at a considerable expense, to the great impediment of Oriental study. It is also to be remarked, that of the Oriental works which have been published, the publication has taken place almost exclusively on the Continent; the cost of printing in this country, and particularly of printing in the Oriental characters, being much heavier than it is abroad, and consequently tending by the high price of the books to shut them out from the Continent, and to limit their circulation even in England, where it could not under any circumstances be expected to be extensive. To remedy these evils, and to render the valuable Oriental libraries in England more readily accessible to the scholar of Europe, as well as to remove from this country the discredit of being far behind the Continent in the advancement of those studies in which we have a much more immediate interest than our neighbours, it has been resolved to attempt the formation of a fund, from which to defray the expense of printing standard Oriental works, so that they may be afterwards disposed of to students at a charge within their means, and that Oriental works of merit and importance may be preserved and disseminated by the press. For these objects the most distinguished Oriental scholars of this country have cordially associated, and have been joined by many of the friends of Oriental literature, and of literature in general. The project has been also received with the highest approbation by many of the most eminent Orientalists of Continental Europe. The Society is yet in the first stage of its progress, and its success will depend upon the support which it may hereafter receive. In the mean time it has commenced operations, and the following works are in the press or in course of preparation.

ARABIC.

An Account of various Religious Sects, by Muhammad Al Shahrestáni, edited by the Rev. William Cureton.

SANSKRIT.

The Vrihadaranyaka, an Upanishad of the Yajur-veda, edited by M. Louis Poley.

The Hymns of the Rig-veda, edited by Professor H. H. Wilson.

The Prayers and Hymns of the Yajur-veda, edited by the Rev. W. H. Mill, D.D.

The Dasa Kumára Charitra, edited by Professor H. H. Wilson.

SYRIAC.

The Chronicle of Elias of Nisibis, edited by the Rev. William Cureton.

PERSIAN.

A History of India, from the Jámi al Tuárikh of Rashíd Al Dín, edited by William H. Morley, Esq.

The Five Poems of Nizámi, edited by Nathaniel Bland, Esq.
Yúsuf and Zulaikhá, by Firdausí, edited by William H. Morley, Esq.

The Society continue to receive from the active and intelligent Branch Society of Bombay many curious and valuable Papers on the antiquities, religion, and habits of the native population in various parts of that interesting Presidency. Their recent communications on Buddhism have served to aid the labours of our zealous Member, COLONEL SYKES, who has furnished an elaborate article, full of curious research on that subject, in the forthcoming number of the Journal. Some information on the Buddhist system has been also furnished from Ceylon, where the Reverend Mr. Gogerly has devoted much labour to the investigation of whatever that island has presented to his inquiries on that head of research. The zeal and intelligence manifested by Mr. Gogerly in the prosecution of these objects induced the Council to propose him as a corresponding Member of the Society on a late occasion, when he was duly elected.

From the Bombay Branch Society the Council has also received some valuable and curious accounts of certain Hill tribes in the Northern Konkan. This branch of inquiry is at once so curious, and so little explored, in its most valuable details of language and usages, that the Council are induced to express a hope that the efforts of the Indian Societies may be directed on something of a systematic and co-operating plan, to collect and compare the fullest information respecting them, with a view to ascertain the antiquity and connexion of the several mountain and forest classes in various parts of our territories, and their pretensions to be considered the aboriginal possessors of the extensive regions of India.

From the Societies of Calcutta and Madras, the Society has received no other communications than the transmission of their valuable Journals.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

In laying the Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1840, before the Meeting, the Auditors regret to state that the financial resources of the Society are less satisfactory than in the former year.

The Receipt for 1840, (*vide* Statement, No. I.) is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions and Arrears of ditto	580	13	0
Admission Fees of New Members	78	15	0
Compositions of Subscriptions	147	0	0
Annual Donation of the Hon. East India Company	105	0	0
Dividends on Stock	58	5	8
Sale of Publications ,	64	3	3

Total Receipt 1033 16 11

The *Expenditure* for the same period is:—

	£.	s.	d.
House-rent, one year	220	5	0
Rates and Taxes	49	4	0
Salaries and Wages	225	0	0
Printer's Bill, for Nos. X. and XI. of Journal, &c.	379	14	7
Current Expenses, Housekeeper's Account, Stationery, and Miscellanies	210	9	5
Total Expenditure	1084	13	9

Showing an excess of 50*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* over the current receipt of the year, which sum being deducted from the balance in favour of the Society at the end of 1839, of 407*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, leaves a balance in hand on the 31st of December, 1840, amounting to 356*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

In comparing the Income of 1840 with that of the two preceding years, the Auditors regret to perceive a diminution in the only item which can be considered as the real test of the Society's prosperity or declension, namely, that of Annual Subscriptions; and in looking to the Estimate (Statement, No. II.) of the probable Receipt for the present year, they have further to lament that an unusual falling off in the number of New Members is anticipated. The Auditors, therefore, feel it to be their duty most earnestly to remark, that it is an object of the first importance for the Society to consider in what way its resources may be augmented; and they trust that Members will use their exertions for that end, and especially to promote a fresh accession of new associates as the best means of ensuring the permanent stability of the Institution.

As regards the Expenditure of the Society, the Auditors need scarcely remark upon the necessity of keeping it within the Income. A principal item of expense, and one which ought to be the least restricted, is that for printing the Society's Journal; and however much any limitation on this head must be deplored, as tending to impair the utility of the Institution, and to prevent the accomplishment of its objects, the Auditors see no hope, in the present condition of the Society's funds, that the plan which has been followed for the last four years of printing only one Number in the year, can be prudently departed from.

The Assets of the Society are estimated as on the preceding year, namely —

	£.	s.	d.
Value of Stock in 3 per cents.	1800	0	0
Library, Museum, Stock of Publications, &c.	3500	0	0
	5300	0	0

The Auditors have to express their entire satisfaction at the correctness of the accounts kept by the Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary.

W. H. SYKES, . . . On the part of the Council.
LOUIS HAYES PETIT, } On the part of the Society.
ROBERT BARNEWALL, }

London, 1st May, 1841.

STATEMENT No. I.

RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1840.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
From 127 Subscriptions of Resident Members, at £3 3s. each	400 1 0	By House Rent, one Year	220 5 0
69 ditto, ditto, at £2 2s.	144 18 0	Rates and Taxes	49 4 9
5 ditto, Non-Resident, at £2 2s.	10 10 0	Salaries of Assistant Secretary, Clerk, and Porter	225 0 0
	£555 9 0		£494 9 9
Admission Fees of 15 New Members, at £5 5s.	78 15 0	Printer's Bill for Journal, No. X.	207 13 1
4 Compositions of Subscriptions at £31 10s.	126 0 0	Ditto, ditto, No. XI.	162 15 0
2 Balances of ditto, at £10 10s.	21 0 0	Ditto, Moiety of Paper on Cotton,	9 6 6
			379 14 7
Arrears of Subscription, paid up	147 0 0	Imprests to Honorary Secretary for current Expenses, small Accounts, and Housekeeper's Wages	100 0 0
Annual Donation of the Hon. East India Company	25 4 0	Collector's per centage	33 19 0
One Year's Dividend on Stock in 3 per cents	105 0 0	Stationery, Circulars, Lithography, Bookbinding, &c.	44 4 10
Publications sold, less sundry charges of the Booksellers	58 5 8	Insurance, and a Subscription returned	7 10 0
	64 3 3	Coals	15 13 6
	£1033 16 11	Carpenter's and Glazier's Bills and Sundries	9 2 1
Balance in hand, 31st Dec. 1839.	407 4 2		210 9 5
Assets: £1,942 17 1, 3 per cent. Consols.		Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1840	£1084 13 9
	£1441 1 1		356 7 4
			£1441 1 1

STATEMENT No. II.

ESTIMATE of RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS for 1841.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS (fixed).		ESTIMATED DISBURSEMENTS (fixed).	
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
From Annual Subscriptions, (as per last Year's Receipt) . . .	555 9 0	By House Rent, one Year . . .	220 5 0
Annual Donation of the Hon. East India Company . . .	105 0 0	Rates and Taxes . . .	50 0 0
Dividends on 3 per cent. Consols	58 5 8	Salaries of Assistant Secretary, Clerk, and Porter . . .	225 0 0
	<u>£718 14 8</u>		<u>£495 5 0</u>
ESTIMATED RECEIPTS (contingent).		ESTIMATED DISBURSEMENTS (contingent).	
Admission Fees and Subscriptions of New Members . . .	50 8 0	Imprests to Honorary Secretary for current Expenses, small Accounts, and Housekeeper's Wages . . .	100 0 0
Compositions of Subscriptions . . .	105 0 0	Collector's per centage . . .	30 0 0
Arrears of ditto . . .	29 8 0	Purchase of New Books, authorized . . .	50 0 0
Sale of Publications . . .	25 0 0	Stationery, Circulars, Lithography, Bookbinding, &c. . . .	50 0 0
Cash transferred by the Committee of Commerce and Agriculture	101 9 2	Coals and Sundries	40 0 0
	<u>311 5 2</u>	Printing Journal, Nos. XII. and XIII. . . .	270 0 0
	<u>£1029 19 10</u>		<u>370 0 0</u>
Balance in hand, 31st Dec. 1840 . . .	356 7 4	Estimated Balance on 31st Dec. 1841 . . .	£1135 5 0
	<u>£1386 7 2</u>		<u>£1386 7 2</u>

MAJOR JOHN SMITH rose to move a vote of thanks to the Auditors ; and said, that although he admitted there was a small diminution in Receipts, yet he could not participate in the feeling of despondency expressed in their report: in his opinion the statements read were as satisfactory and safe, so far as the stability of the Institution is concerned, as any he had ever heard in that room. He moved, "That the thanks of the Society be voted to the Auditors ; and that their Report, together with that of the Council, be received, and printed in the Society's Proceedings."

The motion was seconded by JAMES FERGUSSON, Esq., and carried unanimously.

W. NEWNHAM, Esq. said that the portion of the Report read on the subject of the Committee of Commerce and Agriculture, obviated the necessity for dilating on the services that had been rendered by that department of the Society ; and he would therefore at once move, "That the thanks of the Society be voted to the Chairman of the Committee of Commerce and Agriculture, and to the Committee, for the zeal and efficiency with which they have carried out the objects of its establishment."

NATHANIEL BLAND, Esq. seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

GEORGE STRATTON, Esq. rose to move a vote of thanks to the Council for their services during the past year.

This motion was seconded by COLONEL MILES, and carried unanimously.

The Right Hon. the PRESIDENT said, that the difficulty he felt in rising from the Chair to address the Society would form the best excuse for what he had to say to them. It had for some time been to him a matter of much regret that he was not able more regularly to attend the Meetings. He knew it was for the interest of the Society, that the President should be with them as often as possible, and himself assist in and superintend their proceedings; he trusted that, during the eighteen years that he had held the honourable office, he had never neglected that duty, until his increasing infirmity had made it impossible for him satisfactorily to discharge it. When the Society was first formed, he had been recommended to the Chair, by his political station at the head of the Board of Control; and having always been most anxious to promote every measure which could tend to the welfare of India, or encourage in this country an acquaintance with its habits and resources, he had gratefully accepted the honour done him. In this he had been sanctioned and supported by His Majesty George the Fourth, who declared himself as Patron to the Society, and had himself recommended that the President of the Board of Control should always be, ex-officio, a Vice-Patron, as a means of communication between himself and the Society. When a change of political circumstances had

removed him from his station as President of the Board of Control, he had gratefully accepted the wish of the Members that he should continue to be the President of the Society. He had had much gratification in witnessing the progress which had been made since that time in a knowledge of the East, and in an acquaintance with its wants and resources. Much had since then been done to draw more closely the bands which united that great country with this island; and he was happy to say, that a tardy debt of justice had recently been paid in equalizing the duties on East and West India sugar, and followed up in the present session by a similar concession on the article of rum. The result of such a measure might be imagined from a statement which he had heard made in the House last night, when it was estimated that 100,000 tons of sugar would, in the next season, be imported from India; and that, even in the present year, the probable quantity was 60,000. It was our duty to encourage the staples of India. By our skill we had nearly extinguished the native manufacturers; and we now supplied them with the articles they used to make for exportation to Europe. It was important to ourselves, as well as to India, that she should be able to make a return to us for what we supplied her with. The effect of the equalization of the burdens on sugar had been already felt, and he trusted that this would be the dawn of a better system of commercial legislation for India, from which that empire and this kingdom might alike derive benefit. He had not heard the Report of the Council with satisfaction. It was a subject of regret that the expenditure of the Society exceeded its income: there could be no prosperity when the capital was thus drawn upon; and it was doubly to be regretted that the deficit should be felt in the Society's publications,—the main stay of its usefulness, and the means by which its labours were made known, the number of its Members kept up, and future contributions obtained. On looking at the volume of the Journal on the table, he had to regret that only five articles were the results of the labours of the Society during the year. This could not be attributed to slackness on the part of its officers, who had at their head, as Director, the most eminent Oriental scholar that Europe could boast of. He regretted much that they had received no communication from Major Rawlinson, whose political avocations he feared had compelled him to relinquish the valuable investigations in which every man who had the smallest relish for the memorials of authentic ancient history, must feel so lively an interest. He must now return his warmest thanks for the support which he had always experienced in the Chair; and he was happy to understand that he was likely to be succeeded by a nobleman of zeal and talent, who had already devoted much of his time and energy to the interests and objects of the Society. In taking his farewell of them, he would use the opportunity of expressing his best hopes for the prosperity, the continuance, and the permanence of the Society.

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON rose and said, he begged to propose a resolution which he was confident would receive the cordial and unanimous concur-

rence of the Meeting. He then moved, that the thanks of the Society be given to the Right Hon. C. W. W. Wynn, for his long and tried services as President of the Society, since its first institution, and for the great zeal and interest with which he had uniformly exerted himself for its welfare. Sir George regretted that this proposition had not been placed in better hands. At the same time he felt that, even if he had possessed the eloquence necessary to do justice to his feelings on this occasion, he would have been restrained from employing it, out of delicacy to the President, while he was himself present in the Chair.

He had, however, some claim to come forward upon this occasion, because having been not only connected with the Society from its first institution, but also a party in all the preliminary meetings and discussions which gave rise to it, he was probably more fully acquainted than most of the Members with the circumstances which had led to the original election of the President, and also more able, from personal knowledge, to appreciate the advantages the Society had derived from his services. He happened to be one of that small party of the friends of our late venerated Director, Mr. Colebrooke, to whom he first imparted his project of endeavouring to found an institution of this character; and he ever looked upon this as one of the most flattering circumstances of his life. He was also present at the Meeting at which it was resolved to invite Mr. Wynn to accept of the Chair, and this enabled him to assure the President, that the political station he then occupied was neither the only, nor even the main, ground of their choice. All they felt was this, that it was a fortunate circumstance for the newly-founded institution, that the gentleman who was recommended to their choice by so many personal qualifications happened also to occupy a public station so favourable for promoting its objects by his official patronage.

The Society acted in this spirit at the time that Mr. Wynn ceased to hold office; and so far from accepting, at that time, his resignation of the Chair of the Society, they felt that the wisdom of their choice had received the strongest confirmation from this actual experience of his services. Nothing had prevented the Council from adopting a similar course at present, but a conviction that it would be an ungrateful return for the President's past services, to urge any longer his continuance in the Chair, subject to the very painful sacrifice of his health and comfort with which it was obviously attended. The Society had now, under his auspices, attained a position for accomplishing the object for which it was instituted, as far as its own exertions were concerned, to the full extent that could have been reasonably anticipated at its outset. It is true, it had not yet received that support and assistance from the constituted authorities of the State to which the great public utility of its object freely entitled it; but this disappointment was in no wise to be attributed to the absence of zeal or exertions on the part of our excellent President.

In conclusion, Sir George observed, that he trusted the Society, although losing the valuable aid of Mr. Wynn as President, would long continue to enjoy his countenance and support as a Member of the Society.

In seconding the foregoing motion, the **DIRECTOR** said, that although he had not enjoyed the advantage of many years co-operation with the Right Hon. President, yet he had seen enough in the period during which he had had the pleasure of knowing him, and was sufficiently aware of the value of his services, to be able to say with the greatest sincerity, that he deserved well of the Society. He would not occupy the time of the Meeting by an enumeration of many acts of benefit to the Society, or of kindness to its Members, which had been done by Mr. Wynn, but there was one very important passage of his administration, which he could not pass over unnoticed on this occasion—it was the very efficient aid he had given towards inducing the authorities in India to renew the support, which for a time they had withdrawn, to the printing and publishing of standard Oriental works. The Director observed, that he had had the means of knowing that to Mr. Wynn's exertions it was mainly due, that instructions had been sent out from this country to Bengal, to direct the renewal of the Government patronage of that most valuable operation.

Carried unanimously.

The **PRESIDENT** returned his thanks for the honour done him. His wishes were for the good of the Society; and although he should no longer hold the honourable office of President, he should continue to show how far he appreciated the labours of the Society; and how much he was interested in whatever concerned the welfare of India. He would here say, that he regretted that the absence from town of Sir Alexander Johnston had prevented them from receiving the highly interesting detail of the proceedings of the Committee of Correspondence, with which they were usually favoured by that gentleman.

SIR GORE OUSELEY assured the Meeting, that he rose on the present occasion with mixed feelings of regret and satisfaction. No one could feel more deeply than himself the loss they were about to sustain; he had long witnessed and highly appreciated the value of those services of which they were now to be deprived, and he would willingly dwell longer upon them, were he not restrained by a sense of what was due to the presence of the right honourable gentleman whose resignation left the office of President vacant. His rising was to propose for election into the high and honourable office, one whose predilections were Oriental; whose knowledge of the languages and acquaintance with the literature, manners, and institutions of the East, peculiarly fitted him to be at the head of a Society instituted for encouraging the cultivation of that literature, and the investigation of those institutions; and whose rank and influence in society would enable him to be of essential service to the Society in many ways. The nobleman to whom he referred was the Earl of Munster, and he felt assured that when he mentioned his name, the Meeting and every Member of the Society would cordially agree with him, that a fitter candidate for the Presidentship could not be proposed.

Sir JAMES LAW LUSHINGTON rose to second the motion made by Sir Gore Ouseley. He lamented sincerely the occasion that deprived them of the active services of Mr. Wynn, though he hoped the Institution would not wholly lose the benefit of his occasional presence. He would not dwell on that source of regret, in which he was sure every one present participated. He would rather advert to the motion which he had now seconded, and which proposed to fill the office by the nomination of Lord Munster, whose fitness was universally acknowledged. The constant attention which his Lordship devoted during his sojourn in India to those matters which were the objects of the Society's institution, his station in this country, and his intimate communication with the most learned Orientalists on the Continent, prominently marked him, he would not say to replace, but to succeed Mr. Wynn.

The election of the EARL OF MUNSTER as PRESIDENT of the Society for the ensuing year was then put, and carried unanimously.

Professor WILSON said, that the election of the Earl of Munster to the office of President had created a vacancy among the Vice-Presidents, of whom the number, as prescribed by the Rules of the Society, is four. They could not be at a loss to find a successor among so many persons, eminent for attainments and personal character: the only difficulty was in the choice; yet there was one name which stood most prominent, and which every one who felt an interest in the honour and welfare of the Society would desire to see enrolled among its Vice-Presidents. He meant the Hon. MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE, whose researches in Indian History, and acquaintance with the literature and institutions of the East, as well as the great extent of his personal knowledge, and the urbanity of his manners, peculiarly fitted him for the office for which he had now the honour to propose him.

Sir GORE OUSELEY seconded the motion: and congratulated the Society on the nomination of a gentleman than whom none was better qualified for the office of Vice-President, whether in reference to the goodness of his heart and disposition, or to his extensive literary acquirements.

The election was put, and carried unanimously.

LOUIS HAYES PETIT, Esq. said, that he was much gratified by finding that it devolved on him to move a vote of thanks to the excellent Director of the Society, Professor WILSON. To name him was to name one whose value to the Society could not be too highly appreciated by all who felt an interest in its welfare, or any attachment to the pursuits of Oriental literature. To him the Society was indebted for much of what it had done; and for the estimation in which it was held by Oriental scholars in all parts of Europe. He hoped that they should long continue to have the advantage of his talents; and he would hail what had already been done by Professor Wilson as an earnest of the benefits they might hope, for a long time, to derive from his able superintendence of their labours.

Sir CHARLES MALCOLM seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The DIRECTOR said, he was much indebted to the Society for their vote. He regretted that his many and onerous occupations prevented him from giving much more than his personal attendance, and he could not but feel on that account that he was occupying the place of a more efficient person. Such service, however, as he was enabled to render, he would most willingly give to the Society. He had less merit than another might have in his attendance upon them, because the objects of their pursuit were identical with his own, and in contributing to carry out their views, he was merely indulging his own long-cherished tastes. He would take this opportunity of making one observation in reference to what had fallen from the President on the subject of the publication of the Journal. It had been already stated that the publication had been restrained by financial considerations. The small number of the articles in the Journal, now laid on the table, was occasioned by the length of one article of considerable interest, which it was deemed inexpedient to divide, so as to bring it in portions into two successive numbers. Besides these considerations, however, it was certainly true that the communications from Asia had not been so numerous of late as they were on the first institution of this Society. The reason of this was evident to all who had observed that a great number of institutions had arisen, both in India and in England, whose objects and researches drew to them many articles that would, in former times, have appeared in the pages of our transactions. Besides these circumstances, it was to be observed, the increasing interest in Oriental literature and research had induced many gentlemen to publish, at their own risk and cost, the results of their studies. It must be remembered, however, that the interest so excited on Oriental subjects owed its origin, in no small degree, to the early labours of this Society. In conclusion, he would only add, that many gentlemen have undoubtedly gathered in India much useful information, which their own diffidence prevented them from imparting. He would recommend them to take courage; and if by this suggestion he could induce them freely to communicate what they possessed, he felt assured that he should have rendered valuable service to this excellent Institution.

THOMAS NEWNHAM, Esq. moved the thanks of the Society to the Vice-Presidents, for their services during the past year. He said that, however much he was grieved at the cause which had produced a vacancy in their body, he was gratified that the Meeting had shown the sense they entertained of the services of the Vice-Presidents by raising one of their number to the dignity of President.

This vote was seconded by ROBERT HUNTER, Esq., and carried unanimously.

Sir HERBERT COMPTON rose to move the thanks of the Society to their Honorary Secretary, RICHARD CLARKE, Esq. He would not take up the

time of the Meeting by expatiating on the merits of one with whose conduct as Secretary they must all be more fully acquainted than he could be, who had till very lately been absent from England; but having had the pleasure of an intimate personal acquaintance with Mr. Clarke for nearly forty years, he felt truly gratified at being the medium of voting the thanks of the Society to one to whose worth, talents, and acquirements, he was happy to bear the most unequivocal testimony.

The motion was seconded by **GEORGE SMITH, Esq.**, and carried unanimously.

Mr. CLARKE rose to thank the Meeting for the vote which had just been so kindly passed; the gratification which he felt on the occasion was greatly enhanced by the circumstance of its being proposed by his highly respected friend **Sir Herbert Compton**, with whom his acquaintance dates from his earliest arrival in Madras, in 1801. In his situation of Secretary, it was a high gratification to him to anticipate the pleasure of frequently meeting him as a member of the Council into which he was about to be elected, and where he was sure the services of **Sir Herbert Compton** would be of great value, and would be fully appreciated. He could assure the Meeting that such service as he was able to render was a source of unmixed pleasure to him; at the same time he would truly say, that he was so conscious of his own deficiencies, as well in the power of contributing to the advance of the Society's character, as in the command of time, that he should be always ready to retire when any better qualified person would undertake the office. He could not sit down, without adverting to the continued exertions and valuable services of his highly informed, and ever willing assistant **Mr. NORRIS**, for which he begged to express to him his very best thanks.

B. S. JONES, Esq. then moved that the thanks of the Society be voted to the Treasurer, **Mr. Charles Elliott**.

J. BIRCH, Esq. seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. ELLIOTT returned thanks.

THOMAS T. MARDON, Esq. moved the thanks of the Society to the Librarian, **John Shakespear, Esq.**

Seconded by **HENRY WILKINSON, Esq.**, and carried unanimously.

Mr. SHAKESPEAR returned thanks.

JAMES FERGUSSON and **JOHN GOLDIE, Esqrs.** having been nominated Scrutineers, the Meeting proceeded to ballot for the new Members of Council, and for the Officers of the Society.

At the close of the ballot, the following gentlemen were declared unanimously elected into the Council :—

The Right Hon. Sir Charles E. Grey, M.P.; The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie; Sir Herbert Compton; Colonel R. Barnewall; Nathaniel Bland, Esq.; Thomas Newnham, Esq.; Louis Hayes Petit, Esq.; The Rev. Thomas Robinson.

The officers for the last year, with the exception of the late President and the Earl of Munster, as one of the Vice-Presidents, were all unanimously re-elected.

On the Right Hon. Mr. Wynn leaving the Chair, Sir ROBERT CAMPBELL rose, and moved that the thanks of the Meeting should be voted to that gentleman for his conduct in the Chair; and he would ask leave to use the opportunity of stating, that he believed he was the only member of the Court of Directors of the East India Company now left, who had been a Director at the time when Mr. Wynn was elected to the office of President, which he has just resigned. He remembered it well; and he remembered also that it was not merely because he held the office of President of the India Board that he was chosen to the high place which he held in the Royal Asiatic Society—but because he performed the duties of that office so ably and with so much zeal; for he could testify with great satisfaction that a more honest and upright man had never filled the office of President of the Board of Control than the gentleman in whose favour he had the honour to move a vote of thanks.

The motion was seconded by General WILSON, and carried unanimously.
